

"If war were declared to-morrow, what would we do for aircraft?"

AVIATION

APRIL 2, 1923

Issued Weekly

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(Official Photo, Aircraft Squadron, Battle Fleet)

VOLUME
XIV

SPECIAL FEATURES

Number
14

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APRIL 2, 1923

AVIATION

VOL. XIV. NO. 14

Member of the Aeronautical Society of America

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Vol. 32V

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LAMAR & DAY
EDITORS
VICTOR E. CLARK
EDITORIAL
EDWARD P. WALKER
EDITORIAL
HARRY H. UNGER
CONTRIBUTOR EDITOR

New Air Mail Planes

IT is promising to note that the plans for night flying of the Air Mail Service have now progressed to the point of submitting the Post Office Department to order new experimental airplanes for this work. This indicates that by summer the United States will again take a long step forward in solving the problem of commercial air transport.

The emergency landing fields on the Chicago Des Moines section of the transcontinental west routes, where night flying is to be tried, are not, have been selected, and when the same ships are on order will have been delivered, everything will be in readiness to start the experiment. Just what the characteristics of the new air mail ships will have has not yet been disclosed by the Air Mail Service, but it is hoped that they will embody the best available practice in airplane design and construction, so as to render them as safe for night flying as human ingenuity will allow.

The importance of the night flying which the Air Mail Service is about to undertake can hardly be overestimated. The fact that a 24 hour day and night service will greatly advance the transcontinental route, is obviously important from the business viewpoint. But what is even more important is that by approaching night flying on a large scale—over a distance of about 1000 miles—the Post Office Department is pioneering in the field which holds in the balance the possibilities of the future for high speed passenger and freight transport all over the world. The few experimental night flights which have been made between Paris and London after careful selection of suitable weather have barely touched the surface of the problem of night flying. The real solution has, of course, in a commercial operation of commerce over an extended route, and in this respect the Chicago to Chicago service offers good possibilities.

The Air Mail Service was the first to demonstrate that an air transport service could be maintained on a regular schedule almost regardless of weather. Once more, the world looks to it for a demonstration that night flying is a practical proposition.

Government Competition

UNLESS the law is it was possible for armaments and navy yards to bid for government work. If they are the law between the War and Navy Departments are compelled to award them the contract.

In this connection it will be a shock to the aeronautical community to learn that recently the Shipping Board awarded the New York Navy Yard the contract for remodeling the

hull. The Navy, having no overhead or capital charges, can naturally underbid private ship building firms. The ship building industry pointed against this state of affairs, on the ground that they are being taxed to maintain Navy yards which offer them no competition, but their protests will do them little good so long as the present law is allowed to stand.

This condition also applies to a certain degree to aeronautical material, and particularly to aircraft engines. When no aircraft have an aircraft engine work, it is natural that it will be lower than that of a private firm. And to enter the law the aircraft must be awarded to the lowest bidder, it follows that whenever the work of a government plant is done, all it has to do is to compete with private manufacturers for government business—and even government subsidy permits the government plant.

What even increases the reluctance of the kind of competition on the part of the government is that many yards and aircraft do not have to stand by their bids, whereas private bidders have to. Bids of government plants are only estimates. In the event of excessive cost or loss, the Navy or the Army have to make up the loss, which means that it is the taxpayer who pays the difference.

That this kind of competition is highly unfair, whether it affects shipping or aircraft, will probably be admitted. Clearly, it is a method used by Congress to keep a large share of warship equipment in local yards and aircraft. It is protected politics at its worst.

War for Wright

THE similarity exists for civil aircraft used by the different countries, which are pointed in this year, have with a few exceptions been established by international agreement embodied in the International Air Navigation Convention of 1908.

Under this convention, American civil aircraft are allowed the national letter 'A', which is one of the radio call letters which the United States in the International Radio Convention. This country has never ratified the International Air Convention, and in the meantime Norway has appropriated the letter 'N' for civil aircraft of its own nationality.

Inasmuch as the letter 'W' in another one of the radio call letters allotted to the United States, it would be a genuine act of homage to the Wright brothers if the United States adapted the letter 'W' to its own civil aircraft work, in every American civil aircraft would then become a constant reminder of the pioneer work done by the two brothers from Dayton.

"If you were declared to someone a war would we do for aircraft?"

In speaking of the Wright (All-Metal) Pioneer Plane, F. B. Benthall, president of the Wright Company, and chief the architect of its organization to bring this plane to America had been too full, first the development of an aircraft plane, the construction cost of which would be substantially equivalent to that of a wooden fabric plane, and secondly the development of an all-metal plane with flying characteristics substantially as good as any wood and fabric type.

"We are in a position to reproduce planes of this general type at prices substantially equivalent to prices of planes of wood and fabric construction," Mr. Benthall said. "However, the flying characteristics of the Wright all-metal plane compare more than favorably with any present pattern type of wood and fabric construction. It must be borne in mind, of course, that the Wright all-metal plane is not equipped with wing radiators, but with the Landing type. For racing or record purposes, wing radiator outfit, of course, is applied to this type of ship."

New Load Carrying Record

The record carrier of the Aero Club of France has been set by a new world's load carrying record for all-metal plane, made Feb. 27, 1933, at Blois, France, by

Jean Camu, who checked 1091 meters with a useful load of 338 kg. The performance of 7500 meters with 226 kg. useful load, which for some pilot made on Feb. 17 and which was reported in our last issue, has not been homologated as a record, apparently because it did not beat the existing record by the specified margin.

The new category of load carrying records for duration, distance and altitude was instituted by the International Aeronautic Federation (F.A.I.) as a simplified substitute for the passenger carrying records previously assigned (ten, three, five, ten, five passengers and so on). The load carrying records are assigned for the following weights: 350 kg., 500 kg., 700 kg., 1000 kg., 1500 kg. and each additional 1000 kg.

Aircraft Exports

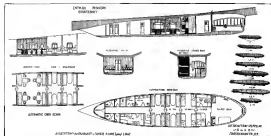
The list of aviation exports from the United States, January, 1933, issued by the Department of Commerce, includes twelve airplanes and airplanes valued \$205,014.96, and five control engines valued \$1,280.80.

December 1932 no aircraft were exported, only aviation aircraft engines valued \$1,600.00, while in January 1933 one airplane valued \$5,900.00 and three aircraft engines valued \$5,253.60 were exported.

Characteristics of U. S. Naval Airship ZR3

The large rigid airship which the Goodyear Co. is building on the Tacoma shipyard is to be named for the United States Navy and which is to be called the ZR3 has the following principal characteristics:

Capacity	80,000 cu. meters
Overall length	225 meters
Span	71.9 meters
Maximum breadth	15 meters
Maximum depth	11 meters
Power plant	1,400 hp.
Wind horsepower	2,000
Maximum lift	45 tons (at 1% of gross lift)
Gas weight	11.7 m.s.d.



Internal arrangement drawings of the air, as fitted for day and night use, of the Goodyear airship ZR3 now building for the United States Navy.

"If war were declared to-morrow what would we do for news?"

Fokker F5 Commercial Transport Airplane

Convertible Wing Feature Permits of Speed
And Load Variation for Different Services

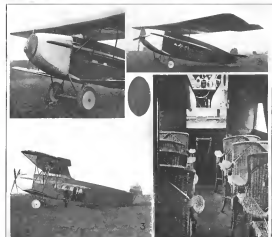
The latest commercial airplane developed in Europe for use on airlines is the new Fokker, known as type F5, which incorporates all the experience gained during the last three years with the Fokker F2, F3, and F4 types. The F5 is well known for its excellent record for safety and economy on that of the main European air lines, while the F4 type, in the hands of the United States Army Air Service, made two of the greatest flights in the history of aviation in October and November, 1932, the world's longest endurance record of 48 hr. 18 min. and the longest non-stop cross country flight over sea, from San Diego to Indianapolis, a distance of 2600 miles.

On the strength of these past performances alone a new type of Fokker commercial plane is sure to be of enormous interest but it will be seen from the following description

that it is an interesting development by virtue of its novel features also.

Disposes Needs of Air Lines

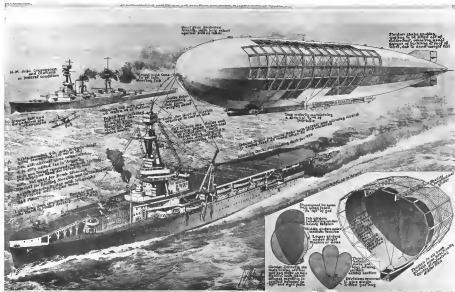
In the first place it should be explained that in the course of commercial operations during the past few years the direct requirements of such roads have become more and more clear. A more line than between knowledge and science, a distance of approximately 150 miles, over which a regular service of three round trips weekly is maintained with Fokker F5 airplanes and where the normal service is almost non-stop, the airlines need a far a plane of large carrying capacity, while high speed is not of such great importance. In addition, this mode is the largest in the world regularly flown without change of airplane or pilot.



The Fokker F5 commercial airplane—(1) View of the nose. (2) The machine fitted as a monoplane; speed 315 m.p.h., useful load 2000 lb. (3) The same fitted as a biplane; speed 118 m.p.h., useful load 1070 lb. (4) Interior view of the cabin, showing door and movable wing in pilot cockpit. This is a very forward view as seen in the position of the camera. The actual length of the cabin, exclusive of entry and wing baggage hold and toilet, is over ten feet.

"If war were declared to-morrow what would we do for aircraft?"

Proposed Type of Rigid Airship for Civil and Military Uses and Depot Ship with Mooring Mast



Drawn by S. F. Colverth, Copyright © U.S.A. Scientific American Pub. Co.

Great Britain's recent decision to relax airship laws gave rise to speculation as to possible improvements in design. The new design shown in the accompanying drawing, which is reproduced by special permission of the Scientific American, is proposed by Messrs. Stuart Brothers, who built the successful wooden rigid R31 and R32 and who commenced but did not complete the all-steel R33.

Following the *Zeppelin* type, all rigid hulls previously had an approximately circular section, and the contact in descent between this ordinary shape and the gas lift has probably caused, at critical moments during navigation, several past disasters. A cylindrical balloon, floating free, will assume a shape similar to that of an inverted drop of liquid—as in the lower left-hand corner of the smaller drawing—and when rendered in a similar frame, exerts very little outward pressure in the lower half and a maximum at the top. As a result, tension in the lower girder, wires, and fabric is probably unbalanced, while in the highest it is at a minimum. The framework is therefore perpetually strained, so is weak, by the disruptive inequality, against which perfect protection only can be provided in the shape of waterbury heavy and needlessly complicated radial wiring.

Now, in inverted airships, many of which have passed to the cruciform design, the girder is largely abandoned, and the failure is incorporated in the float ship by "curved shape" balloons. A single inverted drop action would not be proofed for several obvious reasons. This object is achieved by enclosing three only, moving the two partitions and maintaining lift wires as in the lower drawing. The tendency of the girders in existing ships to force up the top longitudinal is avoided here by two special girders of substantial depth, to which the lift wires are attached. The tension throughout each hoop girder is now practically constant.

Numerous cross-sectional views, as shown, take the lift of the gas in the first instance, and are contained only in their lower ends. From the circular ship, therefore, supposing protective gas containers to be the absence of the structure, we get the new ship with a lightened basket of plating merely fixed round quoniam girders, and free to fall in true direction of rigidity.

To point the record, the R32 actually had additional new girders from the head to the tail, forming a shell in which lower quoniam-bay, double magnitude of this new shape if the outer, original girders are removed. The ship shown is a proposed London-New York passenger liner, 4,500,000 cu. ft., to carry 50 passengers at 50 knots for 4000 control miles. Her shape resembles that of the usual double-bellied submarine which is heavier, of course, submerged in water just as the airship is submerged in the atmosphere. The airship is shown viewed from the mooring mast of a converted "hook-bow" ship.

"If we were declared tomorrow that we do for aircraft!"

Experiments in Contact Flying at Mitchel Field

With a Description of the Apparatus for Making Contact

The "contact" flights made March 5, 1933 at Mitchel Field, L. I., by Lawrence Sperry on a U. S. "Messager" which were briefly reported in our last issue, are being taken to determine the accuracy and length of time it is possible to fly one airplane in close proximity with another airplane, and what the maximum variation and intervening distance are. The object of obtaining this information has a number of different uses, one of which is the challenge at messages, packages, food, fuel, medical supplies, etc. between one airplane and another without the delay and uncertainty of landing in places where good landing fields are not available.

The Contact Apparatus

The apparatus required for making the above tests consisted of a triplane 38 ft. long being a DH-8B airplane and equipped by two pilots in pairs of two only—one pair at which were synchronized—two pairs on each plane. The triplane turned, and the other pairs followed in tow. In this way, it is possible to lock the triplane when it is in position, and when not only each is rigid, but keeps it from turning.

The apparatus attached to the "Messager" airplane consisted of a vertical axis, as shown in our last issue, which was pivoted so that it could tip backward. This was used to tip in a vertical position by means of a cable attached below the front prop.

The scheme of measuring the accuracy of contact was by means of painting the bottom edge of the triplane with fresh black ink.

Preliminary Experiments

A great many flights were made prior to those in which contacts were made. It was learned in these flights that it was necessary to control the plane by using the elevator as a throttle, and the throttle as an elevator. This is because the elevator controlling the angle of incidence controls the speed and the throttle, therefore, determines the rise or fall of the one aircraft relative to the other. It was necessary for Mr. Sperry to train himself to use the elevator and throttle in these reverse functions before it was possible for him to make contact.

Another point that was found in these preliminary flights, was that it is impossible to touch the triplane by approaching on the same level. This is because to the pilot on the one plane the whole machine ahead goes out of sight, as it is being approached due to the fact that the center section just ahead of the pilot's head intercepts the plane being approached, thus blotting it out of his sight. It has, therefore, been necessary to get in back of the triplane, and dive below it, keep on diving until it was situated below the rear edge of the center section. Then approach by rising so that the triplane is always kept in view over the edge of the center section. In this way, a contact can be made in a strong angle.

New Gun Mount for Aircraft

As a result of an invention now undergoing final tests in the French naval service, the ultimate power of fighting aircraft will be tremendously increased, it is believed by experts.

The invention now at first reported to be a newly developed model aircraft for big guns, it is authoritatively believed that it consists of a combined machine gun and machine, similar in principle to an American automatic which is a radio-actuated, strongly reinforced, and the supervision of the United States Navy.

"If you were declared tomorrow what would you do for aircraft?"

April 2, 1933

AVIATION

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Henri Julliot Dead

Henri Julliot, French engineer and designer of the semi-rigid type of airship, died of heart disease March 16 in New York. He was 67 years old.

Mr. Julliot was born at Valenciennes, France. After graduating from the Central School of Engineers at Paris, he became technical director of the sugar industries of Lohardy brothers and it was to this moment or that was due the first successful modern airship, the Lohardy type design, which made its trials in November, 1902.

While the airship is to a lesser degree than the airplane the invention of man, Mr. Julliot ranked in the forefront of those who may with justification be called the inventors of the airship. In the fall of 1902, when he completed, with

side air coal platforms of steel tubing, from which the air was suspended by steel cables. Horizontal and vertical control planes were mounted on a steel girder which extended from the platform aft. The design had a rigid design, of 10,000 lb. on the engine, 100 lb. in the hull and 10 lb. in the control, and had a balloon which was best under pressure by means of a gas blower driven from the 48 hp. Mercedes engine which constituted the power plant. Progress was by means of two propellers carried on catenaries from the air. During his first early service this airship returned to her starting point twenty-eight times out of twenty nine, making an average speed of 22 mph. The best speed attained was 35 mph, and the longest voyage, made on June 24, 1904, from Moscow, 82 miles in 2½ hr.

Next, the problem of dirigibility could then be considered as solved, and therefore patents in airships were rapid, the already type retaining, with the improved types, Pigeon, Poupard, etc., and the second department of the U. S. F. Goodrich Co. of Akron, Ohio, and in this respect he produced several of the early "Gigas" or B-1 class airships, which for the United States Navy. After the war, when this first dirigible was dismantled, Mr. Julliot settled in New York where he engaged in the aeronautical consulting business.

Aircraft Exposition in Java

An aircraft exposition will be held in conjunction with the Netherlands India Fair which is scheduled for July 28-Aug. 12 next at Bandung, Java, Netherlands Indies. As this is the first time that modern aircraft will be exhibited in the Far East, and as, furthermore, about 50,000 foreign persons visited the Netherlands India Fair last year, the importance of the event will be apparent.

Commercial and military missions of the Far Eastern powers—Japan, China and Korea—will thus have an outlet of contact and their reports naturally influence the policy of these countries with respect to purchases of foreign equipment. In view of the strong interest which British and French aircraft have acquired in these countries, it would be hardly surprising that American aircraft manufacturers would a serious effort to be adequately represented at the Netherlands India Fair.

Considerable reductions on return freight rates, some of them as low as 40 per cent, have been granted the passengers by several shipping companies plying between America and the Netherlands Indies. Travel agents will be released by the local railroads free of charge to the local port of entry, within 100 miles of the site of the Fair. Super seats at the Fair may cost 25 cents to 40 cents (half Florida) versus 50 cents to 60 cents per square meter of ground area. From traveling space before April 30 are offered at a substantial rate of 10 per cent more May 31 to 15 per cent, and before June 30 to 5 per cent.

All inquiries should be addressed to the Netherlands Fair Association, Bandung (Java), Netherlands Indies. The programme is in "Netherlands Bandung." The A.B.C. Code, 5th Edition.

Indianapolis Gets Balloon Race

The city of Indianapolis has been selected by the National Aeronautics Association of U.S.A. as the site of this year's National Balloon Race. The contest will be held between June 9 and July 4, and the Indianapolis motor speedway will be used as the starting field. Entry of fourteen balloons is desired.



The late Henri Julliot

the structure of the balloon, Henri Julliot, the inventor of the semi-rigid type of airship, died of heart disease March 16 in New York. He was 67 years old. Mr. Julliot was born at Valenciennes, France. After graduating from the Central School of Engineers at Paris, he became technical director of the sugar industries of Lohardy brothers and it was to this moment or that was due the first successful modern airship, the Lohardy type design, which made its trials in November, 1902. While the airship is to a lesser degree than the airplane the invention of man, Mr. Julliot ranked in the forefront of those who may with justification be called the inventors of the airship. In the fall of 1902, when he completed, with side air coal platforms of steel tubing, from which the air was suspended by steel cables. Horizontal and vertical control planes were mounted on a steel girder which extended from the platform aft. The design had a rigid design, of 10,000 lb. on the engine, 100 lb. in the hull and 10 lb. in the control, and had a balloon which was best under pressure by means of a gas blower driven from the 48 hp. Mercedes engine which constituted the power plant. Progress was by means of two propellers carried on catenaries from the air. During his first early service this airship returned to her starting point twenty-eight times out of twenty nine, making an average speed of 22 mph. The best speed attained was 35 mph, and the longest voyage, made on June 24, 1904, from Moscow, 82 miles in 2½ hr. Next, the problem of dirigibility could then be considered as solved, and therefore patents in airships were rapid, the already type retaining, with the improved types, Pigeon, Poupard, etc., and the second department of the U. S. F. Goodrich Co. of Akron, Ohio, and in this respect he produced several of the early "Gigas" or B-1 class airships, which for the United States Navy. After the war, when this first dirigible was dismantled, Mr. Julliot settled in New York where he engaged in the aeronautical consulting business.

The Lohardy semi-rigid type which he developed was characterized by a corrugated cylinder which carried on its under

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